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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
4 February 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)
SUBJECT: Afro-Asian Conference Developments

Responses to the official invitation to attend the conference have been slow, but for the most part favorable. The Central African Federation is the only invitee thus far indicating a negative attitude.

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Thailand has definitely accepted, the Philippines will accept and reports from Liberia, Turkey, South Vietnam and Iran indicate that those countries will also.

Not only has the response been favorable, but there is a distinct trend toward the appointment of competent delegations led by first-rate personalities. Thailand is sending its foreign minister, Prince Wan, and President Magsaysay seems to be set on Carlos Romulo. Both these men are long standing champions of Asian co-operation with the West and have had extensive experience at international conferences. As its chief delegate, Turkey is considering Deputy Prime Minister Zorlu, a tough individual capable of holding his own in any debate. Iran may be represented by Foreign Minister Entezam who is strongly pro-Western. The Prime Minister of Libya has also indicated he would head his country's delegation should it decide to send one. He stated he would vigorously sponsor an anti-Communist, pro-Western line.

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State Dept. review completed

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In addition to matters of such general interest as anti-colonialism and economic development, Pakistani officials are expecting a number of specific issues to be discussed. Among these are the peaceful use of atomic energy and the banning of nuclear weapon tests, the Arab refugee problem, racialism in South Africa, and self-government for Tunisia and Morocco.

The American embassies in South and Southeast Asia expect the Communists to pursue a shrewd but forceful line at Bandung. It is anticipated that the Communists will exude sweet reasonableness toward all those present, and may make a number of glowing promises. For instance, they might dramatically offer a new formula to deal with the problem of Overseas Chinese which would appeal to such countries as Burma, Indonesia and Thailand. At the same time, the Communists are certain bitterly to denounce the West, particularly the US, as the exploiters of Africa and Asia. They probably will cite the Manila pact, the defense treaty with Formosa and US, agricultural disposal surplus program as current military and economic measures designed to perpetuate Asia's and Africa's "inferior" position. The Viet Minh delegates undoubtedly will attack French "colonialism" and American "imperialism" in Indochina as well as complain about alleged breaches of the Geneva agreement. Finally the Communists are likely to propose greater consultation among Afro-Asian countries and more extensive co-operation on the basis of the so-called "five principles of coexistence."

The American embassy in Colombo sees the conference falling into two major camps. One, led by Communist China and abetted by Burma and India, would concentrate on attacking colonialism. The other, including such countries as Pakistan, Ceylon and the Philippines, would push the Communist issue.

The embassy in Rangoon points out that this is the first time that so many race-conscious leaders have met at such a conference. Moreover, many of these leaders represent newly independent countries who are "feeling their oats." Under these circumstances, there may well be noisy assertion of equality with the West, as well as deprecation of its ability to reduce tensions, promote peace and enhance the economic development of Asia and Africa. The embassy also expects the meeting to discuss--and go a long way toward adopting--a resolution favoring the admission of Communist China into the UN and condemning the "Formosa troublemaker." A considerable enhancement of the "psychological" importance of the Viet Minh is also foreseen. The embassy, aware that these

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developments would play into Communist hands, warns that unless the West does something to placate nationalist aspirations the West will be smeared with charges of being antagonistic toward the foremost political force in the area. Other diplomatic posts have indicated the urgency of placing the Communists on the defensive at the outset by judicious briefing of friendly delegations.

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